

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
DECEMBER 3, 2019**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF THE STAFF REPORT AND WORK PLAN FOR THE 2019 REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR OCEAN WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

DISCUSSION

The Clean Water Act and California Water Code require that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) periodically review the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan). The Ocean Plan sets forth beneficial uses for ocean waters of California, establishes water quality objectives to protect those uses, and sets forth a program of implementation describing the actions necessary to achieve the water quality objectives. California's territorial boundaries for ocean waters extend three nautical miles beyond the state's outermost islands, reefs, and rocks, and include all waters between those islands and the coast. Ocean waters also include open bays, such as Monterey and Santa Monica Bay, and exclude enclosed bays, such as San Francisco Bay.

The review results in a staff report and work plan, which includes a prioritized list of issues that guide State Water Board planning efforts to ensure the continued adequacy of the Ocean Plan. The Staff Report includes an overview of the water quality control plan review process, an explanation of issue priority ranking criteria, descriptions of the proposed issues, and issue prioritization and ranking that will guide future planning efforts for the Ocean Plan.

The 2019 Ocean Plan Review identified twenty-two issues, which may be proposed in the future as Ocean Plan amendments. The highest priority issues identified are Issue T – Tribal Beneficial Uses, Issue N – Bacteria Objectives for Water Contact Recreation, Issue I – Exceptions to the Ocean Plan for Discharges into ASBS, Issue O – Desalination Implementation Provisions, and Issue F – Ocean Acidification, Hypoxia, and Climate Change Impacts.

Issue O, which recommends a review of the desalination provisions in the Ocean Plan and considering proposing amendments to clarify and streamline the permitting process for desalination facilities, relates to the State Water Boards efforts to address Human Rights to Water. Additionally, the recommendation for Issue F, which recognizes the impacts of climate change on water quality, such as ocean acidification and hypoxia, is aligned with directive 10 in the State Water Boards Climate Change Resolution.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt the Proposed Final Staff Report and Work Plan for the 2019 Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California?

FISCAL IMPACT

None. Any fiscal impact will be addressed at the time an Ocean Plan amendment is considered for adoption.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

All coastal Regional Water Resources Control Boards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the State Water Board adopt the 2019 Ocean Plan Review.